

Hey, Maryland students! My name is Will Andrione, and I'm a junior at Severna Park High School in Anne Arundel County. I am very excited and genuinely honored to be one of your finalists for the Maryland Student Member position on the Board of Education. Together, we can create a future where every student feels empowered to succeed regardless of background.

I haven't always been invested and active in student leadership; up until a year and a half ago, I wasn't significantly invested in it. Yet all it took to get invested was something so simple: volunteering and helping my community. In the summer before my sophomore year, I began volunteering for a 501(c)(3) non-profit called 'Happy Helpers for the Homeless,' in the name of helping homeless individuals with food and other necessities. However, volunteering just those couple of times opened my eyes to the challenges faced by underserved communities. It ignited a fire within me to help individuals and communities who haven't been put in the circumstances to put themselves in a better scenario. Since then, every leadership position I've held, whether in civics, service, student leadership, or elsewhere, has been driven by a passion for addressing inequities and empowering those who need it the most.

I'm running for Maryland State SMOB – not about myself, the scholastic stipend, or "boosting" my resume. No, this candidacy is about all of us students in Maryland and elevating all of us. All across Maryland, we see challenges as diverse as the state itself. While these issues may vary from Baltimore County to Somerset County to Montgomery County and beyond, the core issue remains the same: not every student has an equal chance to succeed. Whether this be individual student inequities or inequalities with whole communities, the point remains that there needs to be action to bridge gaps from student to student. Whether that be gaps in post-graduation success, the need for more substantial college and career readiness, or struggles with mental, physical, social, and overall wellness, and seeing how we as students and the Board of Education can improve that. My goal is for every student to feel confident that their school is preparing them for the future while supporting them and their well-being regardless of where they live or their background.

Though I am one person, and I don't experience the inequalities, issues, or concerns that other students face, considering Maryland's diversity, there are so many different issues that students have. My focus is not on the problems I have personal experience with; it is on every issue students face, which means hearing from them directly. I will fiercely advocate for a deep student advisory council, not just with one or two members from a region. However, multiple middle schoolers and high schoolers from every county were discussing issues specific to their region and statewide and advising me on the impacts on their county. The advisory council would serve as a way for me to hear from the counties **and** for the counties to hear from me. Every county and student deserves to know what the MD State Board is doing and working on from somebody on the board, and the SAC would also serve as a liaison back to the counties, explaining what is going on and how they will be impacted. This is imperative; transparency is key because no matter where you live, you have the right to know how you will be affected by the decisions that happen at the state level.

Life is hard for many people, and countless more are left underrepresented and underserved; now it's time to put them first and uplift them to create a more equitable education. It's not going to be easy, and it's not going to be done by myself. However, through passion, dedication, the advisory council, and student leaders making their voices known, we can create a Maryland where every single student, when they enter school or when they are walking the stage at graduation, knows that their education system did everything they could to prepare them and protect their health and safety. Thank you so much for your support. It's time to build a brighter future for Maryland – together.

Thank you!

Will Andrione

Instagram: will4statesmob

Education

- Severna Park High School, Severna Park, MD, Expected Graduation May 2026
 - Weighted GPA 4.42
 - Relevant Coursework
 - AP: Computer Science A; US History, World & European History; English Language; Spanish Language
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Student Leadership

- **Civic Engagement Coordinator**, *Chesapeake Regional Association for Student Governments* (2024-present)
 - Organized voter registration drives for all 15 AACPS High Schools
 - Collaborated with the Board of Elections, student councils, and advocacy groups
 - **Anne Arundel County Local Policy Director**, *American Youth Association* (2024-present)
 - Worked with County Exec., Council and Board of Edu. to advocate legislation that benefits the youth
 - Assembled an advisory council of students from all secondary schools in AACo
 - **Regional Director**, *Vote16 Maryland* (2024-present)
 - Spearhead regional efforts toward municipal enfranchisement for those 16 and older
 - **Project Lead**, *AACPS Student Service Learning Leadership Team* (2024-present)
 - Coordinated different service opportunities for students throughout the county
 - Led initiatives such as providing dental hygiene kits to underprivileged communities
 - **AACPS Student Reporter Intern**, *Severna Park Community Engagement* (2024-present)
 - Wrote monthly stories about community engagement in Severna Park feeder schools & liaise with local PTOs
 - **Superintendents Teen Advisor**, *Anne Arundel County Public Schools* (2024-present)
 - Worked with Dr. Bedell & his cabinet members to gain a better understanding of student perspectives
 - **Member**, *Student Member of the Board Advisory Council* (2024-present)
 - Advised Hafsa Hamdaoui on how to vote at Board meetings based on personal and student experiences
 - **Student Ambassador**, *Sec. of State Student Civic Ambassador Program* (2024)
 - Meet with Dept. SOS Micheal Lore for informative sessions on civic issues and how to resolve them
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Volunteer Experience

- **Volunteer Coordinator**, *Happy Helpers for the Homeless* (2023-present)
 - Manage new volunteer operations at headquarters and oversee the distribution of food and supplies
 - **Moderator**, *League of Women Voters Board of Edu. Candidate forum* (2024)
 - Collaborated with others and served on the panel for a discussion with Board of Education candidates
 - **Youth Advisory Council Member**, *MD Civic Education Coalition* (2024-present)
 - Represent AACo in meeting with Civic Coalition members from around the state
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Paid Work

- **Election Judge**, *Anne Arundel County Board of Elections* (2024)
 - Worked in both primary and general elections at the polls, assisting voters with their ballots.
 - **Youth Trainer**, *HappyLee Fitness* (2022-2024)
 - Worked as a trainer for a middle school lifting class, leading classes of up to 20
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Honors and Achievements

- 250+ Service Learning Hours
 - 1st at Severna Park, 10th in Anne Arundel County
- Superintendent's Honor Roll (2020-present)
- Distinguished Service Award Recipient (2024) - Anne Arundel County Public Schools
- National Honors Society, National English Honors Society, National Social Studies Honor Society (2023-present)
- Social Studies Student of the Month (2023)
- Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) Workshop Presenter Certified (2024)